IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A method for producing catalytically active layered silicates, with one or more intercalated layers,

- wherein a metal solution is added to the layered silicate (3.1) and then the mixture is dried to generate the metal atom pillars that support the respective intercalated layer (4.1),

- wherein a metal salt is further added to the dry substance obtained in such a way to generate a dry mixture (5.1), and

- wherein the dry mixture is finally heated, so that the metal atoms or transition metal atoms become included in the intercalated layer (6.1) and the dry mixture is simultaneously calcined.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an Al, Ti, Fe, Cu, Cr solution or a polyoxide mixture of these or similar metals is used as the metal solution.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method according to claim 1, wherein ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ the dry mixture is heated to values of higher than 300°C~~, especially between 450°C and 700°C~~.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the mixture of layered silicate and metal solution is first washed, then filtered and only thereafter heated slowly, whereupon the reaction of formation of the metal atom pillars takes place spontaneously at room temperature.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that,~~ wherein following the described drying step, the substance is shock-heated, in order to achieve a homogeneous distribution of the dehydrated metal atom pillars in the intercalated layers.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the temperature gradient for the shock-heating step is adjusted such that a temperature rise of about 100°C or even greater per 10 minutes is achieved~~, the temperature being raised, for example from 100°C to 500°C in 30 minutes~~.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that,~~ claim 1, wherein after formation of the metal atom pillars in the intercalated layers, the layered silicate is processed by an acid treatment to a cationic condition or by an alkaline treatment to an anionic condition, then is washed and dried.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the metal salt or transition metal salt is formed as a salt based on transition metals such as copper, titanium, indium, cerium, lanthanum or the like.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the metal salt is copper nitrate or copper sulfate.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the substance resulting from the dry mixture is shaped

to form a shaped product, ~~for example in the course of an extrusion operation, if necessary~~ optionally with addition of a binder~~, such as aluminum oxide~~.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~extruded~~ shaped product ~~obtained in this way~~ is dried.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein a two-layer and/or three-layer mineral is used as the layered silicate.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the internal surface of the produced layered silicate has values of approximately 300 m^2/g and larger.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the catalytically active layered silicates are nanoscale composite layered silicates, especially Al-pillared and/or Ti-pillared clays.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The [[A]] method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the metal solution is a polycationic metal solution.

Claim 16 (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein the dry mixture is heated to values between 450°C and 700°C.

Claim 17 (New): The method according to claim 5, wherein the temperature gradient for the shock-heating step is adjusted from 100°C to 500°C in 30 minutes.

Claim 18 (New): The method according to claim 10, wherein the substance resulting from the dry mixture is shaped in the course of an extrusion operation.

Claim 19 (New): The method according to claim 10, wherein said binder is aluminum oxide.